Standing at the Brook

1 Kings 17:6 And he drank of the brook.

The dried-up streams in the Sierras made me realize their value to the traveler thru the mts and reflect upon their usefulness in general.

What men are saying about another dry yr, should one come; that we might as well move out of California. Palestine and across the Jordan- wadys, barren region. No trees and growth such as we have here. There the wells and springs are of inestimable worth.

During the 3-yrs drought at the time Elijah told Ahab that it would not rain, the prophet was told to go to the brook Cherith which was before the Jordan- on the eastern side. The text-"And he drank of the brook."

Here we have the picture of a man and a brook. Two of God's most wonderful creations.

Man at the sunmmit of God's handiwork.

Created in divine image.

But little lower than the angels. We marvel at the achievements of man but more wonderful th n them all is man himself. Isaiah 32 2-A man shall be as a hiding-place from the wind and a covert from the tempest; as rive rivers of water in a dry place, and as te shadow of a great rock in a weary land."

And there at the brook Cherith stood a man. And he drank of the brook.

How wonderful is a brook, too!

Fed from a hidden source whose plenty never fails.

What a song it sings as it goes on its way'.

Not of hate or despair, but of the beauty of th world, of the glory of life, of the shining starsand the radiant sun.

And what wonders it works as it goes on its way!

It gladdens the world. It fertilizes the soil. It blesses andbesutifies forest and field.

It reflects the day, lulls all to sleep at nig

What What a journey it takes!

It will go where man has never been, into un- countries and finally blends withthe ocean to touch far distant shores.

Of the brook as well as of man it may be said, "A brook shall be as a hiding place from the wind and a covert from the tempest;

as rivers of water in a dry place, and as a shadow of a ge great rock in a weary land "

And the brook will live on long after man has gohe and crumbled into dust.

"Men may come and men may go,
But I go on forever."

There they are- the man and the brook. The man may be lonely but he has the brook.

The brrok stands teady to comfort his lonliness, cheer his solitude and strengthen his body. As Elijah stoops down to drink of the brook he seems to recognized the friendship that is offered him.

Elijah has been saying much to others. He has been preaching to the nation. He has been warning Ahab the king. Now the time has come for him to listen, to have things said to him. There are times when we all need to listen, to have things said to us, when we need to listen to the inaudible and elemental voices of the world. "Come ye yourselves apart and rest awhile." Just what did the brook say to the man who drank of its waters?

1. "You do not need as much as you thinkyou do- just a drink from the brook and a morsel of bread from a raven's beak or a widow's table and your needs are met."

We can get along with far less than we imagine, as a rule. We manufacture appetites. Life would be happier if it were more simple. The richest and most tasty are the simple and plain.

Our complex organizations often swallow up the very life and purpose of it all because of their cpmplexities. The channel does'nt make the brook, but the brook makes the channel.

2. The brook is saying that the best things in life cannot be monopolized.

Some men live to corner the markets- they think that if they can but control they proove themselves more clever than others. Their idea of living is owning the best sites and commanding the biggest incomes.

But the brook refuses to be monopolized. Water and air and sunshine and God's wonderful out-of-doors belong to everybody. Whoseever will may come is the gospel of the brook.

It is the same with love and peace and faith and goodness. These cannot be monopolized and the

soul of man need not grovel in poverty,

3. The brook tells the man that God takes care of those who trust Him.

A man once said to the brook," Better save up your water, a drought is coming."

Before the brook could reply the lily growing on th bank said,"The man speaks falsely; I toil not neither do I spin, yet God never fails me."

And a bird in the tree overhanging the brook added, "The lily speaks truth. God takes care of those who put their trust in him." Then the brook answered the man,"I believe the flowers and the birds: the water has never failed."

Nor did God fail Elijah. The brook's drink and the raven's food was sufficient. Also the widow's oil and flour proved ever sufficient to meet the needs.

And it is always so. God can be trusted. He does take care of us.

Then there is the hunger and thirst that is other than physical. And God takes care of that.

The living waters offered by Christ to the woman of Samaria. "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters and drink", called Isaiah, and he had in mind the spiritual needs of man. "Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely."

4. The brook prepares the man for work ahead.

There are great days ahead. Carmel is on the horizon. Horeb awaits you, so prepare to go forth and meet them. How the brook refreshes us and invigorates us, sending us back to the task with renewed strength and spirit.

The living waters of Christ do the same for our spiritual selves.

Is the brook springing up within us? What are we doing for the world? God is so generous to us. Are we so to others? Sometimes brooks dry up- they refuse to flow near a selfish ~~people~~ life.

Conclusion. Seemingly in the picture there is but the man and the brook. But God is there also. He made them both for each other. More, he gave each a destiny to fulfil. The brook goes on forever. Man lives on forever.